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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today's prayer will be offered by our guest Chaplain, Dr. John C. Compton, First Baptist Church of Alexandria, VA. He is the guest of Senator HELMS. We are delighted to have you with us.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain, Dr. John C. Compton, offered the following prayer: Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank You for the privilege of bowing our heads today and acknowledging You as our Creator Lord. We confess that we are dependent upon You completely for everything. Father, we ask for Your leadership on this day. We pray for each man and woman in the Senate, Father, that You would give them wisdom and courage and insight as they are about to deliberate on national and international affairs. Heavenly Father, we thank You for the wisdom of Your word that teaches us that the supreme principle of life is to love the Lord our God with all our heart, mind, and soul and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Father, may this principle of love guide everything the Senate does today. And, Dear Lord, we ask that You bless each Senator with a measure of health and fulfillment as they serve You, for we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JOHN ASHCROFT, a Senator from the State of Missouri, led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Pennsylvania is recognized.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I thank the Chair. I compliment the distinguished leader of the prayer, and I compliment the President pro tempore.

I will be glad to yield to my distinguished colleague from North Carolina.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRAPO). The Senator from North Carolina is recognized.

GUEST CHAPLAIN JOHN C. COMPTON

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, the inspiring prayer which Senators just heard was delivered by the remarkable Dr. John C. Compton, whose church is the home church for Dot Helms and me when the Senate is in session.

The congregation at First Baptist Alexandria includes many good folks from North Carolina, with relatives in our State. Dr. Compton has been senior pastor at First Baptist Alexandria since June 1997, and what an enormous impact he has had. His powerful sermons are always meaningful and helpful. Young adults are flocking to the various services and other events at his church. Dr. Compton's messages to all who hear him are straight from the Bible. He dares to address with candor the moral and spiritual breakdown so evident in America today. That is because his message, without exception, emphasizes the hope available to all who will follow and embrace the precepts and faith of our Founding Fathers.

John and Teresa Compton have two daughters, Sarah and Rachel. Dr. Compton's father, deceased, and his mother served as missionaries in Brazil for a quarter of a century beginning in 1950.

Numerous staff members from Capitol Hill attend First Baptist Alexandria, including several from my own office. A warm welcome is extended to the Senate's guest Chaplain for today, Dr. John C. Compton. And for my part, Mr. President, I am genuinely grateful

for what this remarkable minister has meant to Dot Helms and me and countless others.

I thank the Chair and I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume consideration of S. 1650, which the clerk will report.

The legislative assistant read as follows:

A bill (S. 1650) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Abraham (for Coverdell) amendment No. 1828, to prohibit the use of funds for any program for the distribution of sterile needles or syringes for the hypodermic injection of any illegal drug.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, on behalf of the leader, I have been asked to announce that we will proceed now to the consideration of the bill on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education. The pending amendment is one offered by the distinguished Senator from Michigan, Mr. ABRAHAM.

We are culling the list, and we have it now in reasonable shape so that I do believe that if we are able to have a

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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